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Message Text

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14
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01 /080 W
---------- 042261
R 240745Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6241
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10856

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLASS 2/28/74
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: JAPANESE PURCHASES OF BRAZILIAN SOYBEANS

PASS AGRICULTURE

REFERENCE: STATE 166785

1. GREENWOOD ARTICLE AS PER REF CANNOT REPEAT CANNOT BE CONFIRMED HERE. SIMILAR ARTICLE (USING SAME FIGURES) APPEARED HERE IN ENGLISH MAINICHI DAILY JUNE 19, 1973. AT THAT TIME OFFICE OF AG ATTACHE MADE EXTENSIVE INQUIRY INTO MATTER. FINDING ARTICLE TO BE RECEIVED AS LUDICROUS BY BOTH TRADE AND GOJ, AG ATTACHE DID NOT REPORT IT.

2. FURTHER INQUIRIES TODAY HAVE YIELDED THE SAME RESULTS.

3. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE TRADE AND GOVT SOURCES, BRAZIL' S 1973 SOYBEAN CROP TOTALED 4.7 MITLION MT OF WHICH JAPAN WILL IMPORT FROM 120,000 TO 148,000 MT. NEXT YEAR (1974) BRAZIL'S CROP WILL BE ABOUT 7 TO 7.5 MILLION MT. TOTAL EXPORTS TO ALL COUNTRIES REPEAT TO ALL COUNTRIES, ACCORDING TO JAPANESE SOURCES, WILL BE ABOUT 2.5 MILLION MT. JAPAN WILL IMPORT FROM 200,000 TO 500,000 MT. (JAPAN OILSEED CRUSHERS ASSOC. ESTIMATES MAXIMUM REPEAT MAXIMUM IMPORTS FROM BRAZIL OF 1974 CROP AT 200,000 MT: SOME TRADING COMPANIES BELIEVE IMPORTS COULD BE AS HIGH AS 500,000 MT, DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF U.S. AND CHINESE SOYBEANS).
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4. IT IS TRUE THAT JAPAN IS SEEKING TO DIVERSIFY SUPPLY SOURCES, BUT THIS POLICY WAS DEVELOPED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, NOT SINCE IMPOSITION OF U.S. EXPORT RESTRICTIONS. (SEE TOKYO 9766).

5. FROM ALL INDICATIONS, JAPAN WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF SUPPLY, BUT SHE WILL NOT MAKE THE DRASTIC CHANGE IN TRADE PATTERN SUGGESTED IN GREENWOOD ARTICLE. TRADE SOURCES ARE QUICK TO ADMIT THAT DESPITE RECENT IMPOSITION OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON VARIOUS ITEMS, THE U.S. IS STILL AND WILL LIKELY CONTINUE TO BE THE MOST RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF AGRI COMMODITIES IN THE WORLD.
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